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~~Talking Points for the Secretary's Meeting~~
~~With President-Elect's Transition Team~~

November 18, 1980

Foundation of Human Rights Policy

— The human rights policy is based on a growing body of domestic and international law, defining human rights and obligating the US to promote respect for them.

—Domestic legislation mandates that human rights concerns be taken into account in decisions on economic assistance, arms transfers, sale of police equipment; restricts assistance to specific countries; and requires human rights reports on all UN member states.

Purpose of Policy

— The active worldwide promotion of justice and human rights is in the US national interest.

— This policy gains wide respect for the US by promoting positive change in many countries.

— Human rights is our ideological response to communism.

— Support of repressive regimes often leads to radicalization of the political center and assists left-wing takeovers.

— Close identification with repressive regimes, unpopular with their people, inevitably impacts adversely on US strategic, economic and political interests when those regimes fall.

— Democratic states make more stable allies.

Continuing and Pending Initiatives on Behalf of Human Rights

— Continue bilateral pressures to prevent the execution of Kim Dae Jung, the principal Korean opposition leader, and others on trial for political reasons, and to promote democratization in South Korea.

— Continue pressure for the liberalization of the Marcos regime in the Philippines.

— Monitor strictly Soviet and East European compliance with human rights provisions in the Helsinki Final Act, including protection of dissidents, increased emigration, and support of Polish liberalization process.

— Continue support of moderate leadership in El Salvador and other Central American countries, conditioning aid on concrete human rights progress and curtailment of violence, and encouraging Nicaragua to promote pluralism.

— Support racial justice in South Africa, and promote respect for human rights throughout Africa by encouraging the establishment of an African human rights commission.

— Seek to reduce violations of human rights in the West Bank and other Israeli occupied territories and continue to press for equitable solution of Middle East conflict, providing protection for the human rights of all peoples involved in the conflict.

— Promote increased respect for human rights and democracy in the Americas, both bilaterally and through the OAS, with a view to eliminating such practices as disappearances, torture and arbitrary detention.

Asylum Unit

— Maintain strong Asylum unit, providing policy leadership within USG, assuring prompt, case by case, review of requests for asylum and taking special effort to avoid jeopardizing lives of those fearing persecution.